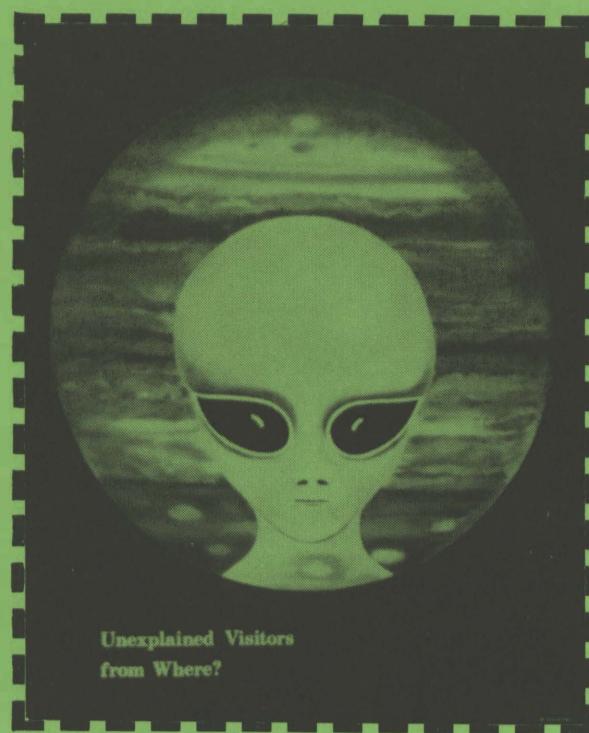




The

Australian U.F.O. Bulletin



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WELCOME

The Society welcomes reports of unusual phenomena. These are evaluated on their own merits and if requested are kept in the strictest confidence.

The Society exchanges information with similar Australian and overseas organisations, as well as scientists, and disseminates to the public information on local, interstate and overseas developments in its quarterly publication, the "Australian U.F.O. Bulletin", which is posted to all members.

All communications should be addressed per the return address shown on the rear of this bulletin.

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MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

For details of your membership renewal, refer to the month/year coding on the address label of your latest bulletin. This indicates the last bulletin for which you are financial – we would appreciate your renewal by the date shown.

Victorian U.F.O. Research Society

P.O. Box 43, Moorabbin, Vic. 3189, Australia

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EDITORIAL

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MANUEL FERNANDEZ

Columnist

PAUL NORMAN

GARY WING

Printers

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROJECT

COMMUNITY YOUTH SUPPORT SCHEME INC

CONTENTS AND SUBMISSIONS

The contents of the THE AUSTRALIAN UFO BULLETIN are determined by the editor, and do not necessarily represent the official position of VUFORS. Opinions of contributors are their own, and do not necessarily reflect those of the editor, the staff or VUFORS. All submissions are subject to editing. Style, clarity and conciseness remains the responsibility of the article owner or author.

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EDITORIAL

IS THE REALITY

STRANGER THAN FICTION?

The following passage appeared in the 'Letters To The Editor' section of one of Australias largest daily newspaper. On reading its contents, one becomes reminded that even those who we hold in great respect, not only for their achievements but also for their foresight and judgment, are in no way privileged or gifted to anticipate what is real or what may be the truth for things to come.

History has taught us that select women and men will be given insight into new and as yet undefined facts, skills, wealth, knowledge, materials and mechanisms, without, and in most cases rely knowing what such a discovery may in the end bring to mankind!

The vision we as UFOLIGISTS now have of the reality of the UFO at this point in history reside partly in fiction, imagination and reality. Not one inch shall we travel across that bridge to a conclusion until we are given the next link or span to cross that gap.

The questions we as UFOLIGISTS must ask are therefore, questions that ask "What if" and not "What has happened."

The perplexing problems we now face revolve around how and who do we question. The present scientific thinking and structure as we see it today, does not have this flexibility.

I pity all who cast without doubt, that they and they alone have what in their eyes, is the final truth or conclusion. For history has a way of making even the best of us look foolish.

EDITORIAL

"It took the perception of the DUKE OF WELLINGTON in the 1820s to declare on the future of the steam locomotive: "I see no reason to suppose that these machines will ever force themselves into general use."

Professor ALAN GILBERT of the University of NSW, addressing the Chamber of Mines, Metals and Extractive Industries in Sydney, was dwelling on how the future can make fools of us.

He quoted LORD HALDANE, the British defence planner who said at the turn of the century: "The aeroplane will never fly."

At about the same time, the inventor, LORD KELVIN, said: "Radio has no future."

The German inventor, WERNER VON SIEMENS, remarked with equal confidence: "Electric light will never take the place of gas."

Professor GILBERT continued, "In 1900 someone said: 'Man will never fly - not in a thousand years.' His name was astonishingly, was WILBUR WRIGHT, which goes to show just how deeply depressing minor setbacks can be."

Apparently AUGUST LUMIERE, the inventor of cinematography, once

EDITORIAL

said of his invention: "It can be exploited for a certain time as a scientific curiosity, but apart from that it has no commercial value."

As the professor remarked, try telling that to the makers of BATMAN!"

REF: THE WEEKEND AUSTRALIAN, SEPTEMBER 9TH, 1989:

FIVE YEARS IS LONG ENOUGH

Well it's official at last. I have decided to call this edition my last. Five years in my opinion is long enough and it's time for new blood, ideas and enthusiasm from the Editor and Producers chair.

The Bulletin has change dramatically over this time. I am very proud of all the changes I have been able to make, for the better I trust. Although some may disagree.

Members should be aware that over this time, many benefits have come about even though you may at first not realise it.

You now have:

- A bulletin that gets to you ahead of time and not three months behind as experienced in the past.
- An increase from an average 9,800 word/editor to 14,000 word/editor, up 43%.
- A mistake/words rate of only 0.002% on average. It is interesting to note that the SUN newspaper runs at an average of 0.0024%.
- An increase, from 16 pages to 32 pages.
- An increase, from on average 9 stories/editor to todays average of 15 stories/editor up 67%.

EDITORIAL

- From a 2 photo /edition to a 15 photo /edition up 650%.
- From NO art work /edition to on average 15 units of art work up 100%.
- New cover.
- Book format, layout and clear art work.
- Plastic covers for postage.
- An updated diary included.
- Subscription listing.
- A index of past Bulletin contents.
- Advertising.
- Material for balance (Anti UFO point of view).
- Less press clips and more short stories.
- And thanks to Committee Member, Steve Partridge, for new tags, membership renewal information and mailing improvements.

And for the new year. We now have plans for another new cover, Gary Wings Australian Sighting catalogue, clear offset printing and we trust a dramatic improvement in the quality of our photographs as we start to use the new machinery available to us.

Art Director, Manuel Fernandez will have new art work and a much more attractive Bulletin to present. All these planned new ventures will be available for the new Editor / Producer for our next edition.

And for the complaints I receive about the Bulletin, the support has always been stronger. I leave a Bulletin, for who ever the next Editor / Producer may be, that is in my opinion "The best product that our budget, time and experience can produce".

A very sincere thanks to the many people and societies who have contributed editorials, articles or information over the past 5 years. And I wish the next Editor / Producer the very best of luck. Now back to the research!

JOHN.W. AUCHETTL

ON THE UFO TRAIL

Paul B. Norman



During September 1970, I crossed the Nullarbor Plain for the first time. Since then, my visits to the area have been many, stopping off at first one road house then another. On each and every trip across that interesting outback of Australia I have encountered stories of strange lights, objects and experiences that have occurred to numerous motorists, truck drivers and bus drivers as well as reports from pilots who have flown over the region.

One of the most recent encounters, previously mentioned, was that of a Pioneer bus driver and his passengers who were paced for 10 Km. Although the object was near ground level and the sky was overcast with no stars visible at that time, the planet Jupiter

was the "explanation" put forward by dedicated debunkers. If true, it was the first recorded appearance of Jupiter below the clouds of earth. From this same source debunkers also tried to convince the nation that the right rear tyre of the Knowles family car had been damaged by running at high speed on the rim. Just how this could be done without battering the rim was not explained. Such debunking attempts coming from this crop of so-called experts is giving them the reputation of the leading 'MALFUNCTION JUNCTION' in Australia., coming to second place only to Philip Klass, the chief debunker in the United States with his so-called "scientific"

investigation of unknown phenomena.

This sort of ridicule prevents innocent and sincere observers from coming forward to report their experiences so we can learn more about the mystery objects. Usually, the observers do not know enough about the subject to defend themselves where as the seasoned Ufologist can dish the ridicule right back into the debunkers lap.

The Nullarbor Plain has become so interesting to me that as this article is being written (September 1989) I am on the UFO Trail on the Nullarbor Plain, accompanied by three contacts who are as intrigued with the subject as myself.

Over the years, I have spoken with individuals who are native to the region especially people who have observed UFOs while out shooting and others whose occupations have taken them to the area. Many of these reports concerned strange lights not only flying high in the sky but darting about and hovering low over the

ground. Such reports as these are the primary reason for the purpose of my current visit because one of the main attractions appears to be that some of the objects are hovering over openings in the ground which lead to the vast underground water basin under the Nullarbor Plain.

These are thousands of world-wide reports where UFOs are near fresh water sources which may be the reason more objects are reported from South America than any other continent. This is due to both the isolation and the abundant fresh water supply, where as Australia is the driest continent and the water supply is very much restricted. It has come to my attention that the water levels in dams have dropped during UFO activity over farms. Water tanks as well have been emptied while UFOs have hovered overhead.

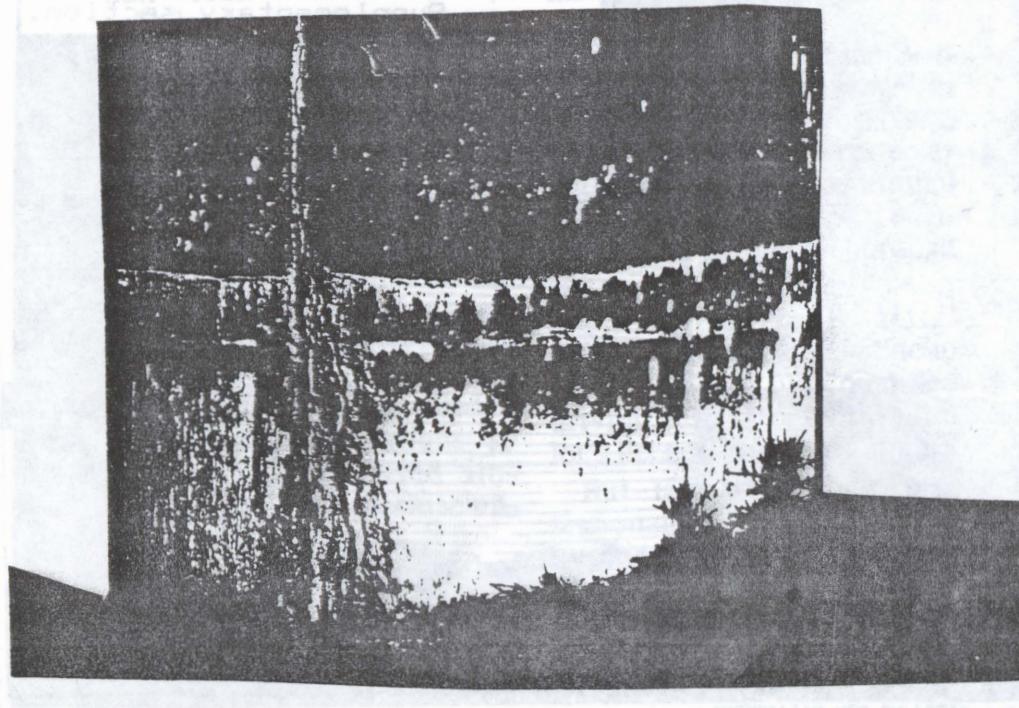
Two of those previously mentioned in The Australian UFO Bulletin were the White Acres Encounter and the Bundalaguah property

activity where farmers reported an unusual low water level in the billabongs, located in Eastern Victoria.

About the same time another dairy farmer watched as a UFO hovered over one of his water tanks before landing a few metres away from the tanks, leaving a four metre circle where it had sat on the ground. Although that incident occurred during the same period as the above-mentioned cases, it was nearly two years

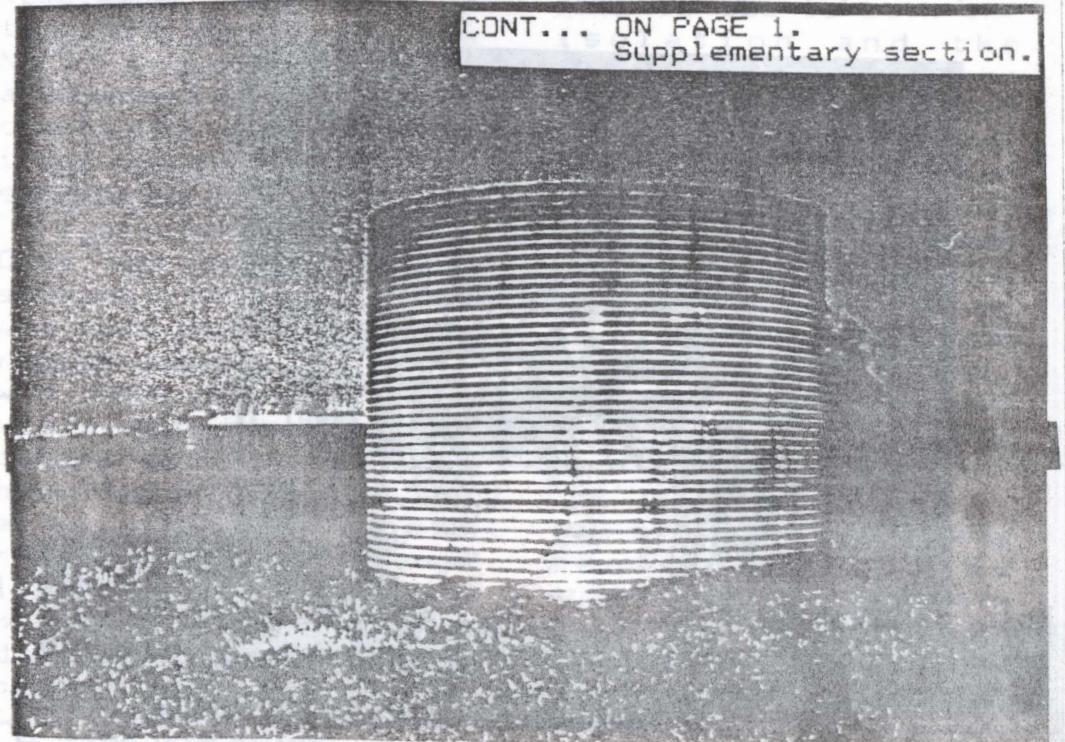
afterwards before we learned of it. The farmer had previously reported a close encounter but was ridiculed. He reported the later incident to us after a friend told him of VUFORS whose researchers seriously investigate encounters.

When Pat Gildea and I arrived for a visit to his farm we noticed cracks in the concrete tank which had been repaired and asked the farmer for the reason. (see photo 1).



His reply was that he assumed the initial crack was caused by an earth tremor although he knew of no such tremor. Water was being pumped into the tank and he was not sure whether or not any water was taken. The damaged tank was later replaced by a new one.

Only six months ago VUFORS received another similar report. Although the incident took place about the same time, witnesses did not come forward because they feared ridicule. On that (See photo 2), occasion



CONT... ON PAGE 1.
Supplementary section.

the water was taken from a circular trough through a float valve fed from the adjacent concrete tank which had a sealed top.

During the same period, circles were found near other watering troughs after strange lights were seen in the same vicinity. We have only recently learned of another case, however, witnesses to the event now live in England and it will be sometime before we know the details.

BRIEFLY

circles

THE circle was 37 ft across, a perfect swirl of flattened green wheat spinning out from a tight centre. Despite a week's exposure to passing ramblers, it was in almost pristine condition, the horizontal plant stems neatly brushed towards a sharp division with the surrounding crop.

"I have never seen anything like it before," declared Pat Delgado who, with fellow researcher Colin Andrews, had recorded the mysterious appearance of 148 circles in the fields of southern England during the previous four and a half weeks.

Delgado, a retired electro-mechanical design engineer, was referring to a distinctively baffling feature of this circle near the village of Chilcomb, two and a half miles from Winchester. Curving out from its edge, like a tadpole's tail, was a 28-yard channel whose flattened stems were combed immaculately towards the circle. Enormous pressure appeared to have been applied to these precise formations so that the soil carried impressions of the otherwise undamaged stems.

The circle's centre lay between a tractor's wheel tramlines, and some 200 yards from ancient tumuli.

Why, one wondered, would an alien leave his spacecraft to walk into the field and then return? Perhaps for a very human reason. I recalled that Delgado and Andrews's new book, Circular Evidence, mentioned the discovery of a "luminous, white, jelly-like substance" which had defied analysis.

Aliens are, of course, taboo among serious British UFO investigators. The two researchers, who favour the theory of a rotating energy field, say they are working with 35 scientists, and stress their own technical credentials.

Delgado worked at the British missile testing range in Australia and later for Nasa. Andrews, whose Andover home is their operational base, is a senior electrical engineer with the local borough council.

Their remarkable aerial photographs are largely due to Busty Taylor, a fully qualified driving instructor with a pilot's licence. Busty is a man.

But last week their professionalism was called into question by the British UFO Research Association (Bufora).

It accused them of "fostering a space-age myth" in their



rejection of a meteorological explanation, of ignoring the extent of hoaxes and of perversely insisting that the circles are mostly confined to Hampshire and Wiltshire.

It also cited the authors' apparent reluctance to reveal that they were consultants to Flying Saucer Review — "a journal which has featured a secret 'plot' to remove UFO books from libraries and linked UFOs with genies".

I put this to Andrews. "I am indeed a consultant to Flying Saucer Review," he said. "I don't see what that has to do with it. I haven't gone out of my way to push that because we want to keep the research scientific.

"The vortex doesn't have to be intelligent, although personally I believe it is."

He contends that the phenomenon is not only increasing at an exponential rate, but that it is evolving. Indeed, the book's photographs show a bewildering array of single, double and triple circles, ornamented with permutations of 'Saturn' rings, satellite circles and swirl patterns.

The latest twist, claim the researchers, is a molecular change in affected crops which is passing into the food chain.

"The pattern is initially spiralled, but it starts growing into patterns like a dart board," Delgado said. "Of the 95 circles reported in Wiltshire until last week, one third were developing the same molecular damage."

Their critics at Bufora assert that by drawing media attention to Wessex and ignoring evidence of wider distribution, Delgado and Andrews are inadvertently encouraging elaborate hoaxes by groups fixated on the mysticism of Stonehenge, Avebury and Silbury Hill.

The researchers readily agree that the mysterious force appears to be taking an interest in them. "We can be talking, even on an aircraft, and the phenomenon appears to respond to the discussion, even the thought," Andrews said.

Fortunately, they can identify genuine circles with dowsing rods. And by felicitous circumstance, Delgado's naked hands are tuned to energy forces and subterranean water. In their book, Andrews relates several personal close encounters with the paranormal.

I asked if they had any evidence of animal life being affected. Andrews triumphantly



NOTICE

TO MEMBERS

CITY MEETINGS

Because of the increasing attendance by members and the public to the Societies city meetings, the committee has acquired the larger lecture room facilities for the future.

"Therefore, we welcome interested members to bring either their families or friends."



emerged from his kitchen with a frozen jamjar containing a fly, still clinging to a stem. "This was taken from the centre of the vortex at Chilcomb. His wings are outstretched. He was about to take off. He's been zapped dead." Andrews beamed.

They have other flies in the sky — the Optica aircraft of Hampshire and Wiltshire police who, they say, exchange details of new circle formations. "They recognise we can't keep sweeping this under the carpet," Andrews said.

"It's big. We need help. We have the Japanese and French flying in, and still our govern-

ment is not prepared to get off their backsides and come down here."

He flourished a graph of sightings. "The way this is going, something is going to happen in the next few months."

Circular Evidence by Pat Delgado and Colin Andrews is published on Thursday by Bloomsbury (£14.95).

The recently published Controversy Of The Circles, by Jenny Randles and Paul Fuller, is available from Bufora, 37 Heathbank Road, Stockport, Cheshire, SK3 OUP (£3.95).

WORLD NEWS

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An Open Letter To Dr. Carl Sagan

By Stanton T. Friedman

Dear Carl:

It really saddens me, as a classmate of yours for 3 years, to have to once again, for the third time, write to correct a false and misleading statement by you concerning flying saucers. I should think you would take your professional status as a scientist and a science communicator more seriously and get your facts straight before speaking out. The latest example of misinformation (following on your COSMOS UFO piece and your CBC radio interview with V. Gaberou) appears in the *Toronto Star*, Sunday, October 16, 1988. I first checked with the writer, Jack Miller, who assured me that his coverage of your comments was accurate. Unfortunately, your statement "every flying saucer 'sighting'

when given a genuinely tough scientific scrutiny has been judged either a mistake or a fraud" is itself a fraud. The exact opposite is true! Every large scale scientific study of flying saucers has produced a significant number of cases which not only cannot be identified, but which clearly indicate that some so called flying saucers are manufactured objects behaving in ways that we Earthlings cannot yet duplicate with our manufactured objects. Let me give some examples:

1.) Project Blue Book Special Report Number 14 was completed by scientists and other professional personnel at the Battelle Memorial Institute in Columbus, Ohio, under con-

tract to the USAF Project Blue Book. 21.5% of the 3201 sightings studied in detail had to eventually be listed as UNKNOWNs. "Those reports wherein the description of the object and its maneuvers could not be fitted to the pattern of ANY KNOWN OBJECT or phenomenon" completely separate from the 9.3% listed as Insufficient Information, the 1.5% listed as psychological manifestations and the other KNOWNs. Note that no sighting could be listed as an UNKNOWN unless all four of the professional final report evaluators agreed it was an UNKNOWN, though any 2 could categorize any sighting in one of the KNOWN groups. Furthermore, it was also found that the better the quality of the sighting, the more likely to be an UNKNOWN, and that the duration of observation for the UNKNOWNs was greater than for the KNOWNs, with more than 60% being observed for longer than 60 seconds. Mistakes or frauds?

2.) According to an 11-person professional UFO subcommittee of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, 30% of the 117 sightings investigated by the professional scientists under Dr. Edward U. Condon at the University of Colorado could not be identified. Mistakes, Frauds?

3.) Dr. James E. McDonald, Professor of Physics at the University of Arizona, personally investigated hundreds of UFO sightings. Since these were

generally prescreened cases, it is not surprising that many remained UNKNOWN after serious and competent professional investigation. Jim wrote many papers, as you know, and he presented a number of his cases at the Congressional Hearings, July 29, 1968, and the AAAS Conference in Boston, which proceedings you edited. You were present at the Hearings as well. Mistakes, Frauds?

4.) Dr. Leonard Nikisin of the section on SETI of the Soviet Academy of Sciences stated on October 14 that 20% of the more than 20,000 UFO sightings investigated by a professional commission on Abnormal Atmospheric Phenomena (backed by the SAS and headed by a Cosmonaut) could not be identified. This is not surprising in view of the previous detailed study by Gindilis et al. Mistakes, frauds?

There are many other examples such as the 2500 Physical Trace cases from 65 countries collected by Ted Phillips, and the more than 3000 pilot sightings investigated by Dr. Richard Haines, and the many abduction cases investigated by Budd Hopkins and a team of psychiatrists and other professionals.

I find it quite extraordinary that you keep saying "extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence" when you yourself keep making extraordinary claims about both the prevalence of ETI and the absence of good

:WE WISH TO THANK:



Stanton T.
Friedman
MUFON
UFO JOURNAL



flying saucer sightings. You provide no evidence whatsoever to back up your claims, which, unfortunately, are demonstrably false.

I keep getting asked why you make such false statements. I suggest to the questioners that they ought to ask you, not me. When they push me, I do have to point out that, obviously, if alien spacecraft are visiting earth, and not asking you for a meeting, that decreases your importance and throws out the whole notion of the radio telescope SETI which you have backed so vigorously. I also acknowledge that you may have taken over

from Donald Menzel as the UFO dis-information specialist, which may only show my naivete, since I express my doubts about it. I trust you have seen my article about Menzel and his double life?

I recognize that you have not replied to my previous letters re Cosmos and Gabereau. I would certainly like some explanation for your false statements and even a glimmer of evidence to support them.

Most cordially,
Stanton T. Friedman
New Brunswick
Canada

CORRECTION

REF: SEPT 1989 EDITION - PAGE 6 PARA 3
RIGHT HAND COL - LINE DOWN 22
SHOULD READ : "February 21st" :



PAUL NORMAN
Investigator for the
VICTORIAN UFO
RESEARCH SOCIETY

For private interviews with witnesses who have observed unidentified flying objects.
The Society is in direct contact with leading scientists who are endeavouring to solve the UFO phenomena.

People interested in this subject may subscribe to The Australian UFO Bulletin, PO Box 43, Moorabbin, Vic., 3189.

In December 1977 and January 1978, dairy farmers in and around Leitchville, Victoria, were buzzed by mysterious lights. We interviewed some of the farmers who had sent us reports (names in VUFORS files). However, the interest was far greater than the few residents in the small town. So great in fact, that VUFORS President Judith Magee and I were requested to give a lecture at the town hall. People came from miles around and as far away as Echuca, Swan Hill and Shepparton. The hall was packed leaving only standing room. It was decided a repeat lecture should be given the following night. Later we learned of the reason for the keen interest - many of the farmers who were either buzzed while irrigating, sighted UFOs or knew of friends and relations who had had experiences but had hesitated to report for fear of ridicule were eager to know more about the UFOs.

What was there around that area to attract UFOs? Why, of course, it was the centre of the irrigation system of

Northern Victoria.

Another location that experiences more than average waves of UFO appearances, so many in fact that some of the local residents regard them as "only a part of the scenery" is Tully in Queensland. Tully receives the highest rainfall on the Australian continent.

Now, the most recent incident, January 1989 at 7.15 a.m. - a large cigar shaped UFO appeared over a farm located in the Western District of Victoria. The object was described as dull silver in colour. It was observed for about five minutes while stationary over a shed where irrigation pumps were located and disappeared when the farmer's wife started her car to go and tell her husband who was working some distance away. This was the same farm where all the water in a small dam disappeared overnight. It was in the same area where a small circular object was seen to merge with a larger cigar shaped UFO while irrigation was in progress.

Just a few days prior to the latest sighting an empty water tank went missing from the farm. The tank was found later, three paddocks away where it had been dropped from the air. Did the Ufonauts think they were going to draw water from the tank? Can Ufonauts be mistaken? Surely many more cases exist but go unreported because of the ridicule barrier constructed by arm chair "experts" and misinformation from debunkers.

While more research needs to be done, the frequency of UFO / fresh water related cases are too many to be classed as coincidence and raises many questions such as : Is hydrogen being extracted from the water for some means of propulsion? Is water being taken out of the earth's recycling system? Is this the reason Ufonauts are evasive-following the same characteristics of thieves who avoid detection? Are they stealing our water? If so, where are they taking the water?

It is interesting to note

that the latest photos of Mars reveal a large number of dried up river beds and proves much water existed on the planet. How about the face on Mars? Was it artificially carved or is it a natural formation? If artificially constructed, was it left as a memorial to an extinct race? Or are some of them still surviving in an underground "oasis"? Were there once trees, grass and other plants on Mars and as the water diminished did greenery cease to become important and the priority shifted to survival?

Recent remarks from individuals associated with the Mars probes have puzzling comments about mysterious structures revealed in photographs. These vague comments have appeared in science publications such as "New Scientist" magazine. Are orthodox scientists beginning to think as Ufologists have been doing for decades?

Since my early years when I was taught that the atom could not be

split, I have observed that orthodox scientists continue to prove themselves to be wrong. Since I have been involved in UFO research I have lost much confidence in orthodox scientists. Only a very small percentage insist that UFOs are impossible because their reported manoeuvres are against the laws of physics.

The statement is precisely word for word the same as their forefathers made about the turn of the century when they said the airplane was impossible because it was against the laws of physics. The elementary educated Wright Brothers did not know it could not

be done so they did it.

Carl Sagan refuses to recognize any intelligence unless it first contacts him through his radio telescope, while he ignores the evidence below his dish. He insists any intelligence that may exist is too far way to reach earth. He, of course, has heard of Albert Einstein and he, of course, knows of relative time and relativity but Carl Sagan does not appear to have thought about the practical application of relative time.

Meanwhile, closer to home, does the UFO trail lead to Mars and beyond?

PAUL NORMAN.

THE WORLD

SPACE AGENCY PROVIDES UFO REFERRALS

People writing to the Jet Propulsion Lab in Pasadena, California about UFOs will receive a form letter providing references to the Center for UFO Studies and the UFO Reporting Center's 24-hour telephone hotline. We are pleased to see UFOs listed along with other categories of referral like "Propulsion Systems," "Aeronautics," and "Weather Satellites." The reporting of unknown aerial objects is a serious matter and such data collection must be encouraged for legitimate study. The JPL should be congratulated for this simple but very useful service to the public.

Our thanks to Lawrence Fawcett &
Barry Greenwood.
(C) JUST CAUSE - Number 20 June 1989

JUST



CAUSE

June 1989

Publisher:
Lawrence Fawcett
Editor:
Barry Greenwood

NASA

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

Washington D.C.
20546

LN
Reply to All of

Mr. Peter A. Gersten
Gagliardi, Torres & Gersten, P.C.
895 Sheridan Avenue
Bronx, NY 10451

Dear Mr. Gersten:

This is in response to your letter of October 13, 1988 requesting the status of protocol concerning "controlling information pertaining to the discovery of or contact with extraterrestrial life forms".

As of this writing, there is no official written record that specifically addresses the handling of information related to the discovery of extraterrestrial life. However, protocols for handling the dissemination of information concerning the discovery of extraterrestrial life and extraterrestrial intelligent life have been discussed on international levels with NASA participation for the past 20 years. An emerging consensus from these discussions emphasizes the following point: that the detection of extraterrestrial life is a discovery with such profound implications that it transcends national boundaries and should be the property of all humankind. This is in keeping with the National Space Act of 1958 and the NASA philosophy of providing the widest possible distribution of results from space-related research for the greatest good of the people of Earth. This is also in accord with the 1968 Treaty on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to which the United States is a signatory. In the absence of a specific policy dealing with successful verification of an ETI signal, NASA and non-NASA SETI researchers in the United States (and abroad) have adopted this policy as an unofficial guiding principle.

Sincerely,

Patricia M. Riep
Freedom of Information
Act Officer

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April 10, 1989

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Australian Post
Sept 1989.

Taking a chance

FOR a premium of \$10 a year, the UFO Abduction and Casualty Insurance company offers policy holders \$10 million cover if they get taken for a ride by aliens from outer space. It may sound far-fetched, but in California (where else?) the company has already coined \$20,000 from gullible Yanks eager for novel dinner-party topics. The policy includes the cost of psychiatric care, by the way.

The Churchill Trust invites applications from Australians, of 18 years and over from all walks of life who wish to be considered for a Churchill Fellowship to undertake, during 1991, an overseas study project that will enhance their usefulness to the Australian community.

No prescribed qualifications are required, merit being the primary test, whether based on past achievements or demonstrated ability for future achievement.

Fellowships are awarded annually to those who have already established themselves in their calling. They are not awarded for the purpose of obtaining higher academic or formal qualifications.

Details may be obtained by sending a self addressed stamped envelope 12 x 24 cms to:

**The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust
218 Northbourne Ave, Braddon,
ACT 2601.**

Completed application forms and reports from three referees must be submitted by Wednesday 28 February 1990.



FEATURES

'Martians' warn farmer to stay away

By DENISE DALGLIESH

STATIONHAND George Blackwell used to be a dyed-in-the-wool cynic . . . until the night he came face to face with a UFO.

Although shocked by the close encounter George, 56, says that if the alien beings manning the spacecraft had invited him aboard he would have leapt at the chance.

George recalled his experience exclusively for POST in a bid to assist the Victorian UFO Research Society, which studies reports from witnesses who have observed UFOs at close range.

George, who lived on the cattle grazing property "White-Acres", near Sale (V), woke at 1am on September 30, 1980, to hear a strange high-pitched whistling noise and the sound of terrified animals.

"The noise was getting louder and I looked out the window and saw what I first thought was an aircraft about to crash into the paddock," George told POST. "Then I realised it had no wings.

"I threw on some clothes and raced out to the porch. It was a clear moonlit night and I could see the craft clearly.

"It was dome-shaped, about three-and-a-half metres high and roughly eight-and-a-half metres long with blue and orange lights. It was moving slowly about two metres above the paddock and as I watched it cruised down to the water tank, hovered over it for some minutes and then landed.

"I didn't know what the hell was

going on . . . my first thought was I had caught some cattle rustlers."

George jumped on a motorbike and bolted down to the paddock where the craft had landed.

"I opened the paddock gate and got a hefty electric shock. My watch stopped right at that moment and my body went numb . . . it just didn't want to respond.

"That gave me a nasty fright so I just stood there stunned, watching this thing. I'd never seen anything like it in my life. It was bell-shaped with a smaller dome on top. I couldn't see any doors, rivets or seams, only portholes with lights behind them, and although I didn't see or hear anyone in it, it was obviously under control — its movements weren't erratic."

The UFO remained stationary for about 10 minutes then started to lift off. George rode straight at it and stopped about five metres away.

"The whistling noise increased in pitch, like a jet engine about to take off, and it lifted gracefully off the ground. I was so close it nearly blew me off the bike and I could feel a blast of heat on my legs. It was incredibly graceful and I felt quite calm — if someone had beckoned and asked me to go for a ride, I would have." As the spacecraft rose George noticed a large circular rim around its base which receded as the craft rose. The whistling noise levelled off to

Objects of dispute

TROUBLE is brewing among the world's major UFO searchers.

The controversy flared when US State Department official Michael Michaud presented a document setting out guidelines for astronomers who make contact with extraterrestrials.

According to the US-based *Omni* magazine, the document, supposed to be signed by all UFO searchers, demanded any contact be made public and any message be considered the world's property, not the property of just one university, organisation or government.

But not all searchers are happy with the requirements, the magazine said.

The final step is asking governments to sign the document, *Omni* reported.

SUN 3rd Sept 89

Two 'see UFO' over refinery

AN UNIDENTIFIED object was spotted over the Shell Refinery on Tuesday night.

Estimated to be twice the size of a jumbo jet, with multi-colored flashing lights, it was noticed by two Bell Park residents at 8.45 pm.

A magazine editor who wanted to remain anonymous

Geelong Advertiser



for fear of ridicule, said he watched the object, which he believed was a UFO, hover for about 90 minutes.

An air traffic controller at Avalon said yesterday the only aeroplane in the area at the time was a Qantas 747.

The Avalon aerodrome air traffic controller said it would be "quite possible" that the Qantas 747 could have appeared much brighter than normal because the cloud base was low, at 2000 feet.

20th July 89



— *Australasian POST*, August 5, 1989

a hum, and rocks and cow pats fell from beneath the UFO. It flew off straight over the ocean. Stunned, George returned to his bungalow to find that 50 minutes had elapsed.

Next morning George and Ralph Anderson, the owner of White-Acres, discovered a brown ring about 10 metres in diameter on the ground where George had watched the UFO landing.

The ground appeared to be scorched, and around the circle were six distinct spots where the grass was unharmed. Upturned cow pats and rocks were strewn around the circle under the flight path of the UFO.

The nearby water tank, which had held 2200 litres the night before, was nearly empty. The tank had been cracked but the ground around it was bone dry.

"It was like the tank had been sucked in by some enormous force and had cracked under the strain," George told POST. "I had checked the tank the night before and it was full then. The cattle were still spooked the next morning and refused to go back in that paddock for months."

In the cold light of day George remained adamant that what he had witnessed was a UFO landing.

"I can assure you it wasn't science fiction — it was genuine," he told POST. "I used to be the sort of bloke who'd laugh and pass rude remarks when people mentioned UFOs, but now I think people who make those sorts of statements are ignorant."

"Whatever race of beings made that craft they were a long way ahead of us. I don't think they'd hurt you. I certainly didn't feel fearful. Looking back I think the shock I got off the gate was just their way of telling me not to be so abrupt." The Victorian UFO Research Society contacted George soon after his experience. Paul Norman, vice president of the society, has spent 36 years investigating UFOs.

"In the Blackwell encounter there is tangible evidence of a UFO landing and his experience is one of the best close sightings to occur in Australia," he told POST. "It ties in with UFO sightings from around the world — many are associated with water. I investigated this sighting extensively and George Blackwell is an honest, credible man who didn't just dream up this encounter... it happened."

Judy Magee, president of the society, said: "We get hundreds of reports of UFO sightings but you can write off 80 per cent as natural phenomenon. George Blackwell's encounter falls into the 10 per cent of definite sightings — they can't be explained in any other way."



MEMBER
International Committee for UFO Research

P.O. Box 43, Moorabbin, Vic. 3189, Australia



NOMINATION FOR V.U.F.O.R.S. COMMITTEE
POSITIONS FOR THE YEAR 1990.

All Members are here by notified that written nominations for positions on the VICTORIAN UFO RESEARCH COMMITTEE are NOW OPEN and are to be sent to the;

SECRETARY
V.U.F.O.R.S.
P.O. BOX 43
MOORABBIN VIC 3189.

Nominations must be received or post dated by no later than 6.00pm on FRIDAY 1st, DECEMBER 1989 for the A.G.M. on the 4th DECEMBER 1989.

All positions are open for the Committee.



.....
**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL
IS YOURS DUE ???**

TO CHECK YOUR YOUR MEMBERSHIP STATUS, SIMPLY CHECK THE ADDRESS LABEL ON THE FRONT OF THIS BULLETIN. THE DATE SHOWN IS THE LAST BULLETIN YOU ARE FINANCIAL FOR. MAYBE YOU'D LIKE TO GIVE 1 YEARS MEMBERSHIP TO A FRIEND!

The failure of the 'science' of ufology

James Oberg
is a member of the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal

In the 30 years since the current flying saucer fever began, the phenomenon has apparently been transformed from the property of cranks and crackpots to the subject of true scientific study. The sensational term "flying saucer"

became the more semantically neutral "unidentified flying object", or "UFO". The study of such reports—the objects themselves, not being physically present, cannot be studied—came to be called "ufology".

The word has all the appearances of a true science, yet somehow that particular branch of study has *not* become accepted as a science. Can ufology really be considered a true science, or perhaps an infant science, or possibly an unborn science—or is it instead just a hysterical pregnancy? After all the labour, what has been produced?

Ufology has been shunned by "traditional" science, a rejection which many participants in the movement see as a knee-jerk reaction to any new and unconventional idea. Ufologists regale themselves with anecdotes about Galileo, Giordano Bruno, Louis Pasteur and Charles Darwin, and often appear to contend that contemporary rejection of ufology is practically a canonisation of their field as a future science. "How much of yesterday's heresy is today's science?" they ask knowingly.

The answer, unfortunately, is very, very little. Most scientific heresies of the past fell by the wayside, forgotten

in our history books, and unnoticed by modern would-be Galileos. Ufology must have better credentials than simply its rejection by modern science. After all, in those 30 years since UFOs appeared, modern science has undergone several generations of radical revolutions in its comprehension of the Universe, from the cosmic and macroscopic to the microscopic and subatomic scales.

The suspicion with which modern "establishment science" regards the UFO movement appears to be more closely connected with some disturbing characteristics of "ufology" itself. Although many negative feelings have, no doubt, been aroused by the crackpot aura with which the flying saucer movement has long been associated—despite the best efforts of a few serious ufologists—other criticism has been levelled at the very philosophical foundations of ufology. The inability of ufological theorists to come to grips with these objections represents the most serious roadblock to the acceptance of ufology as a legitimate branch of modern science.

The criticisms are essentially these: ufology allegedly refuses to play by the rules of scientific thought, demanding instead special exemptions from time-tested procedures of data verification, theory testing, and the burden of proof. Ufologists assert the existence of some extraordinary stimulus behind a small fraction of the tens of thousands of UFO reports on file. The cornerstone of the alleged proof is the undisputed observation that a small residue of such

WILLIAM L. MOORE PUBLICATIONS & RESEARCH

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reports cannot at present be explained in terms of prosaic (if rare) phenomena. Yet this claim is invalid: it is clearly not logical to base the existence of a positive ("true UFOs exist") on the grounds of a hypothetical negative ("no matter what the effort, some UFO reports cannot be explained").

This latter fallacy can be called the "residue fallacy", and it has been addressed by philosophers of science numerous times in the past, apparently without effect on ufologists. Writing in *Science* magazine in 1969, Hudson Hoagland expressed it as follows: "The basic difficulty inherent in any investigation of phenomena such as those of . . . UFOs is that it is impossible for science ever to prove a universal negative. There will always be cases which remain unexplained because of lack of data, lack of repeatability, false reporting, wishful thinking, deluded observers, rumours, lies, and fraud. A residue of unexplained cases is not a justification for continuing an investigation after overwhelming evidence has disposed of hypotheses of supernormality, such as beings from outer space. . . . Unexplained cases are simply unexplained. They can never constitute evidence for any hypothesis."

It is not necessary to conjure up visions of blind, drunk and dishonest UFO percipients to cast doubt on UFO reports. The vast majority of UFO witnesses apparently are honest, sober and intelligent people faced with an extraordinary perception. Yet there are amazingly many obvious and subtle ways in which such perceptions can be understandably generated. And there is bound to be an artificial residue of unexplained cases, a residue created purely by bizarre coincidences, by limitations on human perception and memory, or by rare undocumented natural occurrences. Additional sources of unexplained sightings could be human activities which are never publicised due to military security, to the illegality of the activity, or to plain ignorance on the part of the human agents of the activity that they had caused such a fuss. That residue will never be solved, and no extraordinary stimulus need be referred to.

In a similar fashion, the existence of unsolved crimes, unfound missing persons, unexplained aircraft or automobile accidents, and similar all-too-familiar manifestations of our less-than-perfect knowledge of events cannot be taken to prove the need for the existence of some extraordinary criminals, some extraordinary kidnappers, or some extraordinary traffic saboteurs. "Unexplained cases are simply unexplained," to repeat Hoagland's perceptive assertion. "They can never constitute evidence for any hypothesis."

To dedicated ufologists, such a line of reasoning is denounced as a confusion between IFOs ("identifiable flying objects") and true UFOs. According to Dr J. Allen Hynek, whose Center for UFO Studies in Evanston, Illinois, finds that at least 95 per cent of all UFOs reported to it are in fact IFOs: "Experienced investigators quickly recognise IFOs for what they are . . . but sometimes it takes hard work to unmask the masquerader."

Sceptics point to cases, cases which were solved only by strokes of unexpected luck on the part of researchers. All too often, these sceptics claim, the "hard work" prescribed by Hynek is absent—and the "sheer luck" which allowed the unmasking of some tricky IFOs masquerading as UFOs is not available. The result is that many (if not, as sceptics claim, all) of the official UFOs on the list of unsolved cases are still camouflaged IFOs.

Such a hazy line between IFOs (which provide only data about the limitations of the reliability of eyewitness testimony) and UFOs (which are alleged by ufologists to mark a potential breakthrough in human science) is an appallingly weak basis for the foundation of the new would-be science of ufology. That weakness is accentuated by another highly suspicious and non-scientific feature of ufology: an extremely cavalier attitude towards verification of data.

Ufology is still struggling to achieve scientific and popular respectability, so it is perhaps understandable that public pronouncements of ufologists would be

primarily in the persuasive rather than expository vein. It can thus be observed that all the traditional tricks of the Madison Avenue advertising executive's trade are followed: appeals to authority ("Jimmy Carter saw a UFO"; "our heroic astronauts have seen UFOs!"); assertions of the consequent ("the Universe is so large that other civilisations *must* exist out there!"); the bandwagon appeal ("Most Americans now believe in UFOs!"); the conspiratorial appeal ("The government knows all about it but is hiding the truth"); and the salvation appeal ("The people from space will come to bail us out of our self-inflicted miseries"). It is not necessary at first to examine the actual validity of such statements. What is important is to recognise them for what they are: tactics of illogical persuasion.

At the same time, most of what is commonly published about ufology is undeniably nonsense. UFO proponents such as Hynek are as adamant in the criticism of the news media exploitation of UFO stories as any sceptic could be. For the publishing industry and the news media, UFO stories are good business; they combine human interest, comic relief, scary stories, and swipes at government cover-ups and know-it-all scientists. It is based on such misinformation (and not a little disinformation) that the vast majority of the public has formed its attitudes about UFOs. To say, then, that "most Americans believe in UFOs" is to testify not to the scientific credentials of ufology but to the effectiveness of the media mythmakers.

The authenticity of UFO reports, as portrayed in the popular press, therefore remains highly questionable—and justly so.

Such a problem with the "disproof" of UFO evidence points to yet another major weakness of the philosophical foundations of ufology. The burden of proof, which customarily lies with the claimants of supernormality (or, in a criminal trial, of the guilt of the accused, who is "innocent until proven guilty"), has been shifted to the sceptics, who are in the case of UFOs required to *disprove* the evidence. In the Carter-UFO and the astronaut-UFOs,

it was the sceptics who investigated and solved the cases—while ufologists assumed the cases were authentic until proven otherwise (and most still believe so).

And yet the rules of science are clear: extraordinary claims demand extraordinary proof. The thesis of ufology is an indictment against the ability of contemporary science to explain the Universe, and it must prove such an indictment as every other such proponent must prove it: the need for a modification of our current model of reality must be established beyond reasonable doubt.

The very foundation of ufology is contrary to this time-tested procedure. For ufologists, the mere existence of unsolvable cases is allegedly proof of the need to modify modern science. For ufology, extraordinary reports can be considered to be valid data until disproved. And, in the most devastating departure from scientific methodology, ufologists reject the concept of "falsifiability" of scientific theories.

No theory can be considered scientific until it can be formulated so as to be disprovable, or falsifiable. That is,



EXTERNAL MEMBERS GROUPS.

The committee has recognised that many society members live some distance from the City of Melbourne, and therefore, are unable to attend the city meetings to enjoy the benefits of the discussion nights.

Under new guidelines the following group has been formed to give members living in the GEELONG area, a chance to meet, discuss and assist VUFORS research.

For more information on this new group, please contact our following committee member and area representatives.

GEELONG

Mr Peter Close AH PH (052) 436280

the theory must explain a portion of the Universe in such a way that further observations or experiments will either fail or conform to the theory's predictions, or *will conform* to it (while, preferably, not conforming to traditional predictions). Einstein's prediction of the bending of star light observed near the Sun during a total eclipse is a famous example of such a procedure.

Yet after three decades of aimless speculation, no scientific theories worthy of the name have been produced by ufology. It is thus a sterile "science". Every wild speculation is touted as a "new theory", yet none of them makes predictions which would, by not coming true, discredit the theory. Here again, the processes of thought which characterise "ufology" cannot be classified as "scientific".

The most regrettable aspect of this current unscientific state for "ufology" is that it is not a judgment on the actual validity of many of the published speculations about what might be behind the "true UFO" sightings (if any exist). Alien spacecraft could well be visiting Earth, and there are at least a dozen valid reasons why "they" might decide not to make overt contact, while allowing Earthmen to catch glimpses of them. UFOs might well represent some other phenomenon, such as "psychic projections", "time machines", a terrestrial but undiscovered civilisation or life form, or many other similarly bizarre possibilities. The only thing that can be said scientifically is that none of these suggestions has been even suggested, much less proved in any rigorous sense.

The pity is that if such eventualities should come to pass, and the ufologists are proved "right", they will in all probability have impeded rather than accelerated the acceptance of that phenomenon by traditional science. This is because the new theories will most likely be championed by those ufologists already badly discredited by too many cries of "wolf!", by too many endorsements of what subsequently turned out to have been hoaxes, and by too many anti-scientific assertions and claims. They would be "right" only by accident, not by their own virtue.

★ UNIDENTIFIED flying object activity has increased dramatically in Northern Victoria over recent months.

More than 20 people, mostly dairy farmers, have given first-hand accounts of what appears to UFO-watchers to be a "mini-invasion".

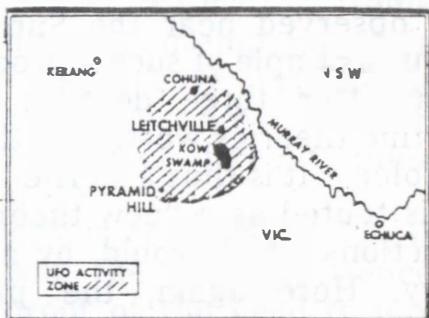
The frenzied activity reached a peak at Christmas. At first people were reluctant to tell about what they saw for fear of ridicule. But the first few who came forward were besieged with callers relating similar sightings.

Excited UFO researcher, Mr Paul Norman, of Melbourne, has been slot out talking to witnesses, getting signed testimonials, tapes, photographs, soil samples — then rushing all the evidence off to the U.S. to be examined by experts.

Sixty-one-year-old Mr Norman, a retired engineer from the U.S., says this part of Australia is the "hot" area for UFO reports.

The most graphic and best documented report on UFOs comes from the Victorian dairy

LEITCHVILLE
DEC 1977



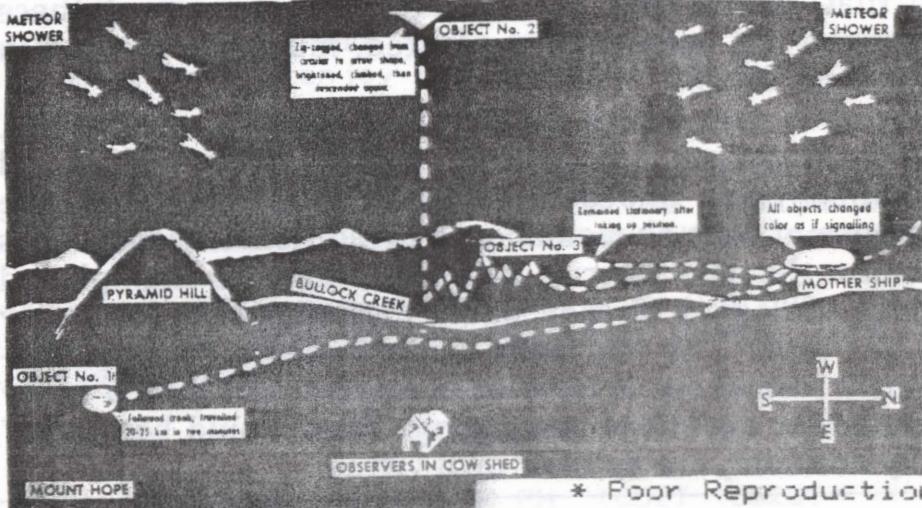
town of Leitchville, in the Murray irrigation area, just inside the Victoria-NSW border.

In the "Leitchville incident", not one but FOUR UPOs were sighted by a group of at least 12 people.

On the night of December 13-14, the group watched spellbound as a mothership and three smaller objects gave a spectacular four-hour performance.

Just 10 days earlier, one of the witnesses Mr Tom Church had found a mysterious circular patch in a paddock — possibly a UPO landing nest.

The burnt ring was 38cm wide



and eight metres in diameter, and only about one kilometre from his farmhouse.

Then, about 11.30 p.m. on December 13, Tom Church and his wife were driving home after visiting friends, when they saw what looked like a mothership slowly descending.

It was orange-red, about the (apparent) size of the moon, but cigar-shaped.

From home, Mrs Church rang a friend nearby, who came running with a group of other people. They took up a vantage point near their cow shed — and watched in disbelief.

After the UFO stopped, three smaller objects detached themselves.

OBJECT No. 1 travelled south, followed Bullock Creek, then stopped between Pyramid Hill and Mt. Hope. It travelled about 25 km in two minutes, the observers estimated.

OBJECT No. 2 flew south, then zig-zagged and appeared to be "hedge-hopping" at about ground

level. At one stage lights brightened, it shot into the air, then plummeted back again.

OBJECT No. 3 went south, then stopped halfway between the "parent" and object No. 2.

All three were launched within about five minutes.

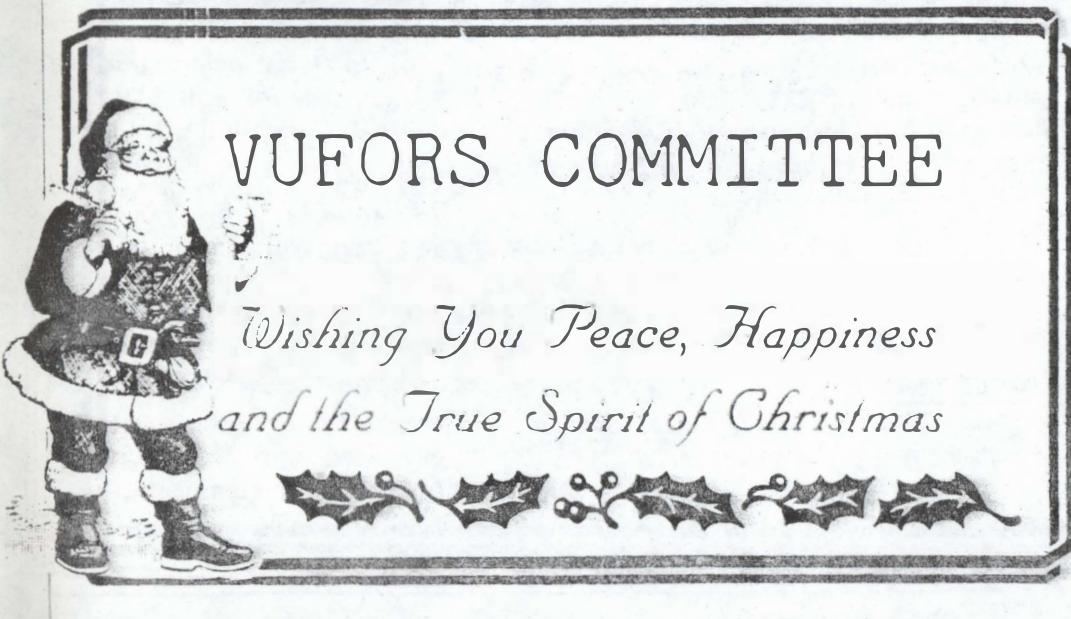
When the four were positioned, they all started to change color rapidly — from orange to bright red to bluish green, whitish blue — as if they were signalling to one another.

Then, to add to the spectacular space show, the watchers saw a "meteor shower" with about 12 to 15 fantastically bright meteors in an hour.

They resembled orange lights which burned up after three to five seconds. Some curved upwards before burning out.

In an eerie incident, another Leitchville couple, Mr Douglas Fehring and his wife Helen, were awakened by "an explosion" about 2 a.m. last September 20.

Aust Post / 9 Feb 78

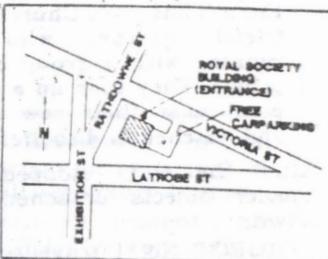


DISCUSSION NIGHT

For your Diary

D E C 4th 1989 A.G.M.

TIME : 8:00pm
WHERE : 'The Royal Society of Victoria'
Victoria St., Melbourne (SEE MAP)
COST : FULL MEMBERSHIP : NO CHARGE
ASSOCIATE MEMBER : \$2
NON-MEMBER : \$3



SUBSCRIPTION RATES

V.U.F.O.R.S.

<u>FULL MEMBERSHIP</u>	- \$15	- Magazine
		- Free Meeting Entry
		- Free Supper
<u>ASSOCIATE MEMBER</u>	- \$10	- Magazine Only
<u>OVERSEAS</u>	- \$US15	- Magazine Only

WELCOME:

Society History

1957

1957

At this point perhaps it may be opportune to present a brief history of the Victorian U.F.O. Research Society.

The earliest U.F.O. group to form in Australia was the "Australian Flying Saucer Bureau" under the direction of Edgar Jarrold and Andrew Tomas, in the early 1950s. At the same time, Fred Stone inaugurated the "Australian Flying Saucer Research Society" in Adelaide. After approximately two years the Bureau closed down and was regarded as a branch of the "Australian Flying Saucer Research Society" under Andrew Tomas. This shortly broke from Adelaide and became the "Australian U.F.O. Investigation Centre" with Dr. Clifford at its head until 1958, when the Presidency passed to Dr. Lindtner.

The "Australian Flying Saucer Research Society (Victorian Branch)" was formed on the 17th February, 1957 as a branch of the "Australian Flying Saucer Research Society" and later that year was re-organised as the "Victorian Flying Saucer Research Society" with Mr. Peter E. Norris L.L.B. as President. In 1968 the name was again altered — this time to the "Victorian U.F.O. Research Society".

During this time, the Society has published various papers and is probably best known for its publication Australian Flying Saucer Review, curtailed in 1972 due to high costs and subsequently superseded by the Australian U.F.O. Bulletin and at one stage sponsored and produced a quarter-hour program on a Melbourne radio station under the heading of "The Truth Behind Flying Saucers".

The Society had held a dispassionate attitude on U.F.O.s, claiming it is a scientific problem deserving closer attention. It has also met regularly in General Meetings and maintains the largest U.F.O. library in the Southern Hemisphere, making books available by post, to members throughout the Commonwealth.

Membership of this Society — which maintains the largest membership of any U.F.O. organisation in the Southern Hemisphere — is open to all who are genuinely interested in the subject.

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